

after birth, so it possesses the faculties of appetite and cognition, though these faculties only develop after birth. But this is to contradict the metaphysical principle that that which is lower in the scale of values is derived from that which is higher, not the higher from the lower. The possession of a quality or function in actuality is of higher value than the possession of it merely in potentiality, and therefore the former cannot be derived from the latter. Besides, to suppose that the soul is already present in the embryo in the same way as teeth are would involve us in supposing that the surrounding air or something equally ridiculous is the cause of the soul's appearance out of whatever it was that existed before.

Chapter sixteen : If, however, anyone wishes to call the plant-like power, which is in the sperm, soul, then we might grant that in that sense the sperm possesses a soul, and that this soul is either broken off from the father's soul or produced by it, and that the soul of the sperm gets from the mother nourishment or even the co-operation with it of this same plant-like power in the mother; but what we cannot grant is that the sperm possesses soul in the strict use of that word. That this is the common opinion of mankind can be seen from what we do when we wish to ensure that parents shall produce fine children : it is not their souls that we train, but their bodies.

Chapter seventeen : Even if you believe that the embryo does already possess a soul, yet you will have to admit that, at whatever time this soul may enter the embryo, it must come from outside it. For the cognitive soul cannot be divided, and therefore the soul of the embryo cannot be a part broken off from the souls of the parents.

The remainder of the treatise is in a very fragmentary condition, and the nature of its contents can only be conjectured.

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## BRITISH CONGRESS OF OBSTETRICS AND GYNÆCOLOGY

### BELFAST MEETING IN APRIL, 1936

THE next meeting of the British Congress of Obstetrics and Gynæcology will be held in Belfast on April, 1, 2, and 3, 1936, under the presidency of Professor R. J. Johnstone, F.R.C.S., M.P.

The principal subject for discussion will be the conservative treatment, by operation or otherwise, of pathological conditions of the ovaries, tubes, and uterus, with special reference to functional results.

The openers of the discussion will be Prof. Hendry (Glasgow), Prof. Leyland Robinson (Liverpool), and Dr. Bethel Solomons (Dublin).

The foreign guests will be Dr. Heymann (Stockholm) and Dr. Gray Ward (New York), both of whom will contribute papers.

A provisional programme will be published in the April number of this Journal.

Any member of the Ulster Medical Society who wishes to be enrolled as a member of the Congress should communicate with the hon. secretary, Mr. C. H. G. Macafee, 18 University Square, Belfast.

## A HISTORY OF THE ULSTER MEDICAL SOCIETY

**THE** editor is at present engaged in writing a history of the Ulster Medical Society, and would be glad of any help that members of the Society can give him. He would be particularly grateful for the loan of, and opportunity to study, any notices, papers, abstracts, proceedings, or other matter concerning the Society. Every possible care would be taken of any printed matter loaned, which would be returned with grateful thanks. Any of our readers who have material of the above nature, or know where it would be available, will they please communicate direct to Dr. R. H. Hunter, Department of Anatomy, Queen's University, Belfast.

### "THE BLOODLESS PHLEBOTOMIST"

**WE** have just received an advance copy of "The Bloodless Phlebotomist," Vol. 8, No. 3. This little journal, published by the Denver Chemical Manufacturing Company of New York, is replete with interesting articles written by physicians who are located in many different countries; and while the purpose of the publication is to acquaint its medical readers with Antiphlogistine, the physicians will find a number of items and illustrations which will excite their curiosity and interest. Altogether this little journal is well worth reading, and we note that 1,450,500 copies are printed in nine languages and distributed to every doctor in the world with a known address, excepting in the countries of Russia, Latvia, and Bulgaria.

If you do not receive a copy, write to the Denver Chemical Manufacturing Company, New York, who will place your name on their list. The journal will be supplied you free of all charges.

## ULSTER MEDICAL SOCIETY

**THE** opening meeting of the session 1935-6 was held in the Whitla Medical Institute on Thursday, 24th October, 1935. Dr. S. R. Hunter introduced the incoming president, Dr. Foster Coates, and placed the chain of office around his neck. Before doing so, Dr. Hunter offered his thanks to the officers of the Society for the assistance they had given him during his term as president. He then paid a special tribute to Dr. Montgomery, the hon. secretary, for his help and assistance, and especially for the very excellent and well balanced programme which he had arranged. The task of introducing Dr. Coates, he said, was simple; as one of our foremost consultants he was well known, and because of the well-earned reputation which he had made for himself by the papers which he had contributed to the Society since becoming a member in 1907, and lastly because he was the son of Dr. Stanley Coates, who had done so much for the advancement of the Ulster Medical Society in the earlier days of its history.

Dr. Foster Coates then arose, and before delivering his presidential address, "The Importance of Vitamins in Dietetics" (published elsewhere in this number

of the Journal), he referred to the loss the Society had sustained by the death of the following members and fellows :—

This is a melancholy duty at all times, he said, but this year the Society had been singularly unfortunate, and it deplores the deaths of Dr. Picken, Dr. Loughridge, and Dr. Gibson, three younger members who might confidently have been expected to remain for many years. The Society deeply regrets the loss of these talented and popular young men.

Dr. O'Connor of Newry, who passed away in his prime, will be missed far beyond the area in which his practice lay. A great sportsman, he was deservedly popular among a large circle of friends. His kindly nature and wide professional knowledge had earned him the affection and respect of numerous patients.

Dr. Cahill had a large practice in this city, and was an old member of this Society. He took a keen interest in all medical matters, frequently taking part in debate, where his clear-sightedness, knowledge, and sound judgment were highly valued.

Dr. Tait of Downpatrick and Dr. McDonald of Portaferry were prominent figures in County Down, and highly esteemed not only for their professional skill, but also for the public services which they rendered to the community. It was a pleasing thought that men who held such important and respected positions in the county should have been members of the honourable profession of medicine.

The second meeting of the session was held in the Whitla Medical Institute on Thursday, 7th November, 1935, at 8.30 p.m. The president, Dr. Foster Coates, was in the chair. A number of short papers were read and discussed. These are published elsewhere in this number of the Journal. The authors were:—Dr. F. M. B. Allen, "A Case of Polysclerosis"; Dr. J. T. Lewis, "A Case of Acute Haemolytic Anaemia"; Dr. Hilton Stewart, "A Case of Advanced Rickets with Pathological Findings," with radiological notes by Dr. F. P. Montgomery and pathological notes by Professor J. S. Young; and Mr. C. J. A. Woodside, "A Case of Carcinomatosis of Glands of Unknown Origin."

The third meeting of the session was held in the Whitla Medical Institute on Thursday, 21st November, 1935, at 8.30 p.m. Dr. Coates, the president, occupied the chair. An interesting series of medical cinematograph films was shown. These included the following :—

- (a) Mechanism of the normal heart.
- (b) Cardiac irregularities.
- (c) Typical gaits.
- (d) Treatment of fractures of the spine (Bohler).
- (e) Treatment of fractures of the finger (Bohler).

The president referred to the value of the cinema in the teaching of medical students, and its possible application to the study of disease. Dr. J. S. Morrow strongly supported the president's remarks, giving examples of possible application to industrial medicine.

The annual dinner was held in the Whitla Medical Institute on the 5th December. The president, Dr. Coates, was in the chair. A number of distinguished guests were

present. The toast of the Society was proposed by Prof. W. B. Morton, and responded to by the president. "The Guests" was given by Dr. Robert Marshall, and responded to by Mr. F. W. Ogilvie, Mr. Seton Pringle, and Mr. E. Warnock, K.C.

H. HILTON STEWART, *Hon. Editorial Secretary.*

18 Malone Road, Belfast.

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## LONDONDERRY MEDICAL SOCIETY

THE inaugural meeting of the session 1935-6 was held in the City and County Infirmary, Londonderry, at 8.15 p.m. on Friday, 1st November, 1935.

The following office-bearers were elected for the ensuing session :—President, Dr. A. Milseed; hon. treasurer, Dr. J. Watson; hon. secretary, Dr. J. A. L. Johnston; Committee: Dr. J. McCormick, Dr. W. G. McKinney, and Dr. W. S. Watson.

A proposal that the Londonderry Medical Society should merge with the Londonderry and District Division of the British Medical Association met with no encouragement from the members of the Society. It was felt that it would be a mistake for what is an independent Society to sink its identity in this manner. It was recognized that there was a need for a strong active branch of the B.M.A., and that there was no objection to this running parallel with our own Society. It was pointed out that owing to the peculiar geographical position of Londonderry, we have members in our Society from no less than three different Divisions of the B.M.A., viz., Londonderry and District, the North-Eastern Division, and the North Tyrone Division, and also a considerable number from the Donegal Division of the Irish Medical Society, and that this in itself would make any attempt at merging with the local B.M.A. Division quite hopeless. In this connection it is worth recording that one of our Free State members made the interesting suggestion that, leaving aside all question of merging our own Society with the B.M.A., it would be worth while making representation to have a branch formed with headquarters in Derry, to deal with business arising from the four divisions named, including the Donegal Division.

J. A. L. JOHNSTON, *Hon. Secretary.*

19 Clarendon Street, Londonderry.

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## BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION BELFAST DIVISION

THE opening meeting of the session was held in the Whitla Medical Institute on 31st October, 1935, when Dr. S. J. Killen, the outgoing chairman, introduced his successor, Dr. S. B. Boyd Campbell.

The latter took as his subject, "The Influence of Gall-bladder and Other Infections on the Incidence of Coronary Thrombosis." After commenting on the increasing incidence of coronary thrombosis, Dr. Boyd Campbell reminded members how

similar the symptoms of acute cholecystitis and coronary thrombosis might be. He went on to describe a large series of cases where there seemed to be a connection between a focus of infection and an attack of coronary thrombosis. In most of these a cholecystitis was the associated condition. It was remarkable how often a gall-bladder infection was, or had been, present in cases of coronary occlusion. He believed that if these patients would submit to operation—too often they refused—a further attack would often be prevented or postponed. Furthermore, these cases stood operation remarkably well.

Dr. Boyd Campbell also quoted cases to show that coronary thrombosis might occur during an attack of influenza, or in connection with a phlebitis, a sinusitis, or septic teeth. His cases were illustrated with slides of excellent electro-cardiograms and X-rays.

A vote of thanks to the speaker was proposed by Sir Thomas Houston, and seconded by Dr. S. R. Hunter.

360 Lisburn Road, Belfast.

J. C. C. CRAWFORD, *Hon. Secretary.*

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## BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION NORTHERN IRELAND BRANCH

THE opening meeting of the session 1935-6 was held in the Whitla Medical Institute on 28th November, 1935. In the unavoidable absence of the president, Professor P. T. Crymble, Dr. H. J. Ritchie occupied the chair. The incoming president, Dr. William Lyle (Newtown Stewart), was introduced to the members by Dr. Ritchie, who conveyed to him the best wishes for a most successful year of office.

Dr. Lyle thanked the members for electing him to a very high office, which had been occupied by many distinguished and eminent members before him. He promised to do all he could to uphold the strength of the Branch, and, if possible, to increase its usefulness. Having referred in suitable terms to the exceedingly heavy obituary list of the past year, he proceeded to deliver his presidential address on "The Decadence of the Medical Profession, and the Remedy." In this he referred to the misdemeanours, intentional and otherwise, of certain members, and how powerless the profession was in censuring such an erring member. The disciplinary powers of the General Medical Council were not always applicable, and the offender avoided the ethical committee of the B.M.A. by resigning his membership. Dr. Lyle appealed for the strengthening of the powers of the profession in exercising penal powers, and suggested that the B.M.A. ought to have facilities for reprimand and punishment. His suggestion was that a doctor who was not a member of the Association should be virtually ostracised. Reference was also made to the declining influence of the medical profession, especially in relations with Government departments, and he appealed for a stand towards making the profession fully worthy of its highest traditions, especially in relations with the general public.

Professor W. W. D. Thomson proposed a very hearty vote of thanks to the president, and this was seconded by Dr. Lagan and passed with acclamation.

## BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING IN BELFAST, 1937

**THE** machinery for making the arrangements for the 1937 annual meeting is now beginning to move, and various sub-committees are being formed. At the meeting of the General Committee held some weeks ago, a chairman and convener were appointed for each sub-committee, and within the past few weeks members of the British Medical Association have been asked to indicate on which committees they would be willing to help. It is hoped that these names will all be utilized shortly and the real work soon begin. Mr. W. M. Fullerton has consented to act as honorary treasurer, and Mr. S. T. Irwin is to be the chairman of the Finance Committee, with Drs. Foster Coates, Eileen Hickey, S. R. Hunter, T. B. Pedlow, and Professor W. J. Wilson, Mr. David Strain, and Mr. J. R. Wheeler as members. At a meeting of the Executive Committee held on 3rd December, Professor R. J. Johnstone outlined the scope of the meeting and the necessary arrangements. It has been decided to establish the offices of the meeting in the Whitla Medical Institute, and the British Medical Association is duly grateful to the Ulster Medical Society for their courtesy in extending this valuable offer.

73 University Road, Belfast.

F. M. B. ALLEN, *Hon. Secretary.*

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## BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION NORTH-EAST ULSTER DIVISION

**THE** Division met in the Cottage Hospital, Coleraine, on Monday, 29th October, 1935. The chairman, Dr. J. C. M. Martin, presided, and there were fourteen members present. Before the meeting, the matron and her staff kindly entertained those present to tea. The main business was the exhibition of a cinematograph film entitled "Sodium Evipan Intravenous Anaesthesia."

Before the film was shown, the chairman returned thanks for the honour done him in electing him chairman of the Division. The film, which was lent to the chairman for the day by Messrs. Bayer & Co., was seen by him in the Gordon Hospital in London some time ago, and he immediately wrote to the hon. secretary and asked him to procure it. The subject, "Sodium Evipan Intravenous Anaesthesia," is not new to many, but the technique certainly is different in parts from the original method. Dr. Martin said he thought this was the greatest advance in medicine for over thirty years. He said he had used evipan for the past two years in 167 cases, and never had the least anxiety. Up to now, he had never used premedication; the book which he had used was strongly against any type of opiate; but now it is known that it can be used with safety, and even doses up to 40 c.c. of sodium evipan can be given to a patient for a prolonged operation, provided that attention is paid to the technique shown in this film, and that during the operation intravenous injections of glucose are given to fortify the liver. The many advantages of evipan are :—

Wide margin of safety; no psychic shock; pleasant to take, no feeling of suffocation; ideal for chest cases, where inhalation anæsthesia is contra-indicated; does not aggravate any pathological condition present (liver excepted); accidental leak outside the vein does not cause damage to surrounding tissues; no sickness or headache; amnesia is the most striking feature of the drug.

J. M. HUNTER, Hon. Secretary.

36 Eglinton Terrace, Portrush.

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## REVIEWS

**A PRACTICAL HANDBOOK OF MIDWIFERY AND GYNÆCOLOGY.** By W. F. T. Haultain and C. Kennedy. Second Edition. Edinburgh: E. & S. Livingstone, 1935. Pp. 356; figs. 44; plate 1. Price 15s. net.

This very excellent handbook has now reached its second edition. It has been brought thoroughly up to date by the revision of the subject matter and the addition of several new chapters.

The book is written in a very concise and practical manner, and the text, if not illustrated as profusely as some books, is easily read and understood. In these days when most authorities regard ante-natal care as essential, not only for the well-being of the mother, but also the good health of the child, it is pleasing to see this chapter so admirably treated. It is also refreshing to see prognosis and treatment given such a prominent place, the latter in such a manner as to be practical for the general practitioner and yet including the most modern methods. The section on Gynæcology deals with the commoner diseases, and is treated in the same practical and concise manner.

The book should prove invaluable not only to the medical student, but also to the general practitioner, and once on the bookshelf will be often used as a book of reference.

**AN INTRODUCTION TO GENERAL THERAPEUTICS.** By H. K. Fry, M.B., B.S., D.P.H. First Edition. London: Cassell & Co., 1935. Pp. 223. Price 6s. net.

The novel approach to the subject and the attractive way in which it is set forth are one important features of this little book.

In approximately two hundred pages, the author has dealt not only with the chemotherapy found in the many handbooks of therapeutics, but with several more specialized and more recent branches of modern methods of treatment: thus about one-half of the book is divided equally between chemotherapy and physiotherapy, while the remainder includes chapters on subjects, important but often neglected, such as climatology, psychotherapy, organotherapy, and dietetics. The chapters on medical electricity, massage, medical gymnastics, and muscle re-education are especially valuable, as too often these subjects are omitted from otherwise good textbooks. The section on chemotherapy is disappointing and somewhat inaccurate, as, for example, the statement that salicylates are specific therapy in rheumatism.

In so far as the book is a concise summary of modern methods of treatment, it has fulfilled the author's purpose. It is not intended to take the place of the larger textbooks of therapeutics, but rather to outline the principles underlying modern treatment.

The book is written in an easy, straightforward style, and makes enjoyable reading. It may confidently be recommended to both students and practitioners as an interesting and helpful introduction to the study of general therapeutics.